Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1864.

THE DAY OF DECISION.

The Presidential canvass which this day comes to an end has been wholly without precedent in the history of the country, whether regarded in its substantial issues or in its collateral aspects. In the heart of a great civil revolution, stirring society to its lowest depths, the people have been called to consider the elements that make up the political situation, and to decide what direction shall be impressed on the mighty current of the events passing before their eyes.

Where so many influences have combined to disturb the judgments of men it would be idle to look for serenity of opinions among all the adherents of any party, since to the natural diversities of sentiment and conduct which spring from differences of temperament, character, and education, have been added at this juncture the jealousies and suspicions engendered by the nature of the great struggle in which the country is engaged. And hence it is that in the jarring conflicts of opinion we have seen men taking sides with the Administration or against it in the pending electoral contest without any regard to former political discriminations. The fountains of the great deep have been broken up, and the surging waters have overflowed all the ancient demarcations which once indicated the boundaries of different political organizations. Thus it is that we have seen coalitions in support of the Administration composed of men representing all shades of former political opinion, and embracing all possible varieties of contemporary creeds, from William Lloyd Garrison to Edward Everett, from John C. Fremont to Montgomery Blair, from men like Messrs. Wade and Davis to men like Messrs. Seward and Bates. With views as wide apart as the poles, all these diversities have found a motive for combining in the support of the same candidates—the only thing had in common among them. In like manner, among the opponents of the Administration we have seen repremost zealous of Republicans have united with of Gen. McClellan.

great bodies of citizens who have been thrown together in the support respectively of Mr. Lincoln and General McClellan without assuming any responsibility whatever for the views of their political associates. When the New York Times. edited by the chief manager of the Presidential canvass on the part of the Republicans, does not scruple to act with such zealous and efficient allies as Messrs. Wade and Davis, while denouncing them as men who " lead the van in the blind race of radicalism and barbarism," we may be sure that not only all political consistency, but even all sense of political identity has been submerged by the drift of events. And within the last few days we have seen a movement, headed by so respectable a gentleman as Major Gen. Dix, designed to conciliate support for the Administration on the basis of the Democratic party pure and simple-it being represented by this branch of the President's supporters that fidelity to the ancient Democratic creed must bring the loyal adherents of that creed into confederation with the modern Republicans under the emergent issues of the hour. In a word, they hold that the Republican party of to-day is the natural home of the Democrats who would preserve uncorrupted the traditions of that party which has ruled the country under Jackson, Van Buren, Polk. Pierce, and Buchanan. New Republican is only Old Democrat "writ large."

It is known to our readers that since the dissolution of the Whig party we have not wholly acted with either the Republican or Democratic organigations. To the Democratic party, while it was in power, we were almost habitually opposed, for though we waged against it no systematic opposition, we were rarely able to concur with its principles or its administrative measures. We thought at the time, as we still think, that under the lead of Southern statesmen and agitators it steadily tended to develop antagonisms which threatened the equilibrium of our political system, and hence we resisted all those schemes of sectional aggrandizement which were initiated under its auspices, and which, though urged in the name of national interests, seemed to us fraught with damage to the common weal.

But, while thus opposing the general policy of the ancient Democratic party, we were just as little able to concur with the spirit and tendencies of the Republican party, which being, in its origin and constitution, a reaction sgainst the extremes of the Democracy, partook of the dangers attaching to all political reactions—pushing its peculiar views South" were at last arrayed against each other under color of diverse political organizations. We stood aloof from both, endeavoring as far as possible to moderate against the violence of both without identifying ourselves with either.

ed a quadrangular contest, with candidacies represented respectively by Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Breckin-ridge, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Bell. The exactions of the Southern wing of the Democracy had resultunion tendencies of that wing were now fully dis'

"It was to this end that they forced through the Senate of that year the Jeff. Davis platform, whereby Mr. Douglas and his friends were virtually read out of the Democratic party. It was to this end that they deliberately and determinedly completed the overthrest of that party, by bolting from the Charleston Convention and nominating Breeknridge and Lane against Douglas and Johnson. All through the canvass we Republicans recognised and treated the botters us our virtual and powerful allies. And when, through their aid, we had elected Lincoln and Hamlin, our triumph was no where more generally or openly exulted over than in Charleston, the fountain and focus of the rebellion."

It was in view of such a co-operation between these two sectional antagonisms that, as lovers of the Union, we could never see our way clear to join with either in the bonds of political fellowship. But when Mr. Lincoln was constitutionally elected to the Presidency we strove to the best of our ability to resist the revolutionary projects of the Southorn politicians, and sought, within the sphere of our influence as public journalists, to conciliate for him the confidence of the Southern people. In so doing, we had to endure many reproaches, not only fastness against what he calls "the Greeley facfrom some who to-day are in arms against the Government, but from others who are now blatant in denouncing as "traitors" all who do not prove their Administration.

On Mr. Lincoln's accession to power, and after the advent of civil war, we gave to his Administration the fullest support it was in our power to give. The hearts of the loyal people of the whole nation were fused into one glowing mass of patriotism by the flames of the conflict. The political dross from his purpose by extraneous influences. of more than a quarter of a century was purged away as in an instant by that fiery ordeal. Old issues passed away. Wire-drawn discriminations about banks, tariffs, internal improvements, &c. libility in many others. It is certain that no path disappeared. The simple question was, "whowill support the Government against armed sedi-Union under the Constitution.

To the support of the Government, as established nents of the Administration we have seen repre-by the Constitution, we are irrevocably pledged, sented an almost equal variety of ancient political faiths. Men who but recently were among the Government, as we conceive, we have given to the present Administration all the support we Democrats and Whigs in supporting the candidacy | could honestly give it in consistency with our paramount allegiance to the Constitution and the laws. In such a chaos of opinions it must needs be that | When its measures have seemed to us constitutour our own guidance and for the guidance of our counmany are held in combination with each of the two tional and expedient we have given them our earnest trymen. So long as Gen. McClellan and Mr. Linproportion as the Administration has, in our eyes, posed upon it, to conduct the war for the Union under the Constitution, have been the frequency and the earnestness of our dissent from its policy and measures, until in the end, when called to consider the rival claims of Mr. Lincoln and Gen. McClellan in the present canvass, it was not difficult to decide which of them, in consistency with our known nation. And between Mr. Lincoln, the candidate opinions, was entitled to receive our support, if we of his party, and Mr. Lincoln, the President of the took any side in the struggle. And while we aim | United States, there is a wide difference. In the to be independent at all times, the thought of being neutral in an emergency which more than ever called for the honest activity of every good citizen seemed to us little short of actual treason to the Republic. For such political indifferentism w have no toleration in a time like the present.

The support of the candidacy of Gen. McClellan followed so naturally and necessarily from the convictions of political duty inculcated in these columns since the outbreak of the war, that we have never paused in the intervals of the canvass to offer triotic citizens, without distinction of party, the any explanations, much less any defence of our duty of avoiding a factious opposition to the one course. We had simply to ask which of the or the other, since, in any event, the intrinsic two candidates frankly accepts the conditions of difficulties of the position of either must be greatly our political problem as they were stated by Mr. enhanced by the divergent views of the supporters Lincoln himself at a time when, in common with of each, whether Gen. McClellan or Mr. Lincoln the great mass of the nation, we were giving him shall be installed in the Presidential chair for our confidence and support; for it was on the 4th the next four years. Those who, on the one hand of July, 1861, that President Lincoln, in his message to Congress, wrote as follows:

message to Congress, wrote as follows:

"Lest there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government towards the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say, it will be his purpose then, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws; and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States and the people, under the Constitution, than that expressed in the inaugural address.

"He desires to preserve the Government, that it may be administered for all, as it was administered by the men who made it. Loyal citizens every where have the right

who made it. Loyal citizens every where have the right to claim this of their Government, and the Government has no right to withhold or neglect it. It is not perceived that, in giving it, there is any coercion, any conquest, or any subjugation, in any just sense of those terms."

That was then the platform of President Lin coln, as it was ours. To-day it is the platform of Gen. McClellan, as it still is ours. Standing on this platform we were willing to co-operate with Republicans in 1861. Standing on this platform we have been willing to co-operate with Democrats in 1864. What we were not willing to do in 1861 of public policy to lengths out of all proportion and what we are not willing to do in 1864 is to with the other great interests of the nation. And desert this platform of principles for the sake of so it came to pass that "the North" and "the following the lead of any party in schemes which we believe to be subversive of the Constitution and fatal to the Union. We can yield much in the way of administrative measures, but we cannot yield the fundamental principles of our political polity as we understand them. We cannot turn revolu-We were not, therefore, among the supporters tionists in the act of suppressing sedition, and of Mr. Lincoln at the last election, which develop- hence it is that, in the present election, we have the right to take up any of the other cases.

preferred to act with that party which, without regard to antecedents, seemed to us the most conservative of the vital principles of the Government, as involved in our present complication. It has not ed in a scission of that ancient party, and the dis- been with us a question which of the parties in the past was the wisest and the best, but which to-day closed. As it is the nature of antagonisms in po- is best fitted to check the tendencies which have lities mutually to support and feed each other, the received too much development and impulse from Republican party thrived on the dissensions of its | the drift of events during the last four years. We most formidable rival. As has been truly said by believe that our political "machine" is in danger Mr. Greeley, "the engineers of the rebellion de- from the velocity of its movement in the new direcsired and labored for the Republican triumph of tion impressed on it by the predominant wing of 1860." And he is equally true to history when he the Republican party. We cheerfully recognise the fact that the Republican party numbers among its adherents many with whom we could cordially sympathize if their opinions gave color and complexion to the Administration, but we have not much confidence that they will be able to maintain their posi. tion in that party, and at the same time maintain the consistency and integrity of their opinions. The drift of the last two years has seemed to us pregnant with warning on this point. If we have fallen out of the current it is because we were not willing to swim with it.

At the same time we know there is a wing of the Democratic party no less impracticable and exacting in its demands than the so-called "radical wing" of the Republicans. Not being identified with the one party any more than the other, we suppose ourselves free to discuss the dangerous tendencies of each, and if Mr. Lincola, during his Administration, had manifested as much steadtion" as Gen. McClellan has shown in regard to "the Vallandigham faction," we might have seen our way clear to support his pretensions to a reloyalty by an unquestioning support of the present election, notwithstanding our old Whig addiction to "the one term principle." As it was, in common with the great mass of our political associates, we have felt it our duty to labor for the election of that candidate who promised to look with a single eye to the restoration of the Union under the Constitution, and who seemed least likely to be jostled

It may be that we have erred in the course we have taken. We do not pretend to be infallible in matters as to which we suppose ourselves to see so much falof duty has ever seemed clearer to our eyes, with such lights as we were able to bring to a discovery tion?" The simple object of the war, at the of the way in which we should walk. Whatever same time, was avowed to be the restoration of the may be the award of this day's arbitrament at the ballot-box, whether it shall appear that we have acted with the many or the few, we shall have the ousness that we consulted honestly, if not wisely, for the welfare of the country. We fully believe that the part we have chosen "will stand the test of human scrutiny and of time." And whatever may be the result of the election, we have the same theory of civil obligation to propound for co-operation. When they seemed otherwise, we coln were before the people as candidates for the have never failed to indicate our opinion, as duty | Presidency, it became the duty as it was the right and candor required at our hands. And just in of all to canvass with freedom, if only with candor, their respective claims to public confidence. strayed from the simple paramount obligation im- But when the contest has been decided let there be. as far as possible, an end of strife and debate.

If the choice of the people shall fall on Gen. McClellan, it will be the duty of his opponents, equally with his supporters, to give to him, as President, the support he is entitled to claim from all good citizens as the constitutional head of the former character he can ask to be supported only by those who concur with him in his opinions and policy. In the latter character he may rightly ask to be upheld in the discharge of his constitutional functions by citizens of all parties slike. And when we call to mind the discordant elements which enter into the composition of both the parties respectively supporting the candidacies of Gen. McClellan and Mr. Lincoln, it must be apparent to all that the success of either will impose upon paor on the other, apprehend the most disastrous consequences from the elevation of Gen. McClellar or of Mr. Lincoln to power, should not despair of the Republic, but are bound by the very sincerity of their apprehensions to labor, within the sphere of their influence, for the correction of tendencies to evil-giving to the Administration, whoever may be the incumbent of the Presidential office, all the support that can be given in consistency with a sense of duty to the Constitution and the public welfare. And it will equally be the duty of the President elect to remember that, in acceding to the discharge of his official duties, he ceases to be the exponent of a mere party, and is called by the moral necessities of his position to respect as much the rights of the minority of his fellow-citizens as the will of the majority.

Maj. Gen. Marmaduke, Brig. Gen. Cabell, and four reb olonels, captured by General Pleasanton at the battle o Osage, left St. Louis on Thursday for Johnson's Island.

THE ST. ALBAN'S ROBBERS.

The proceedings at Montreal on Friday, in the case of the St. Alban's robbers, are stated to have been very astisfactory. Several of the robbers were identified, also some of the money stolen. Upon consultation with the United States authorities, it was determined to proceed with one case in order to save time; and by the decision of that case, if in favor of the United States, the whole will be remanded under the extradition treaty. If the decision is adverse to the United States, they have reserved

THREE REBEL PRIVATEERS.

The rebels have now three steamers committing depreations on the coast. The Chickamauga, which ran out frem Wilmington on the night of the 27th of October, has since destroyed three vessels. Their captains and crews arrived at New York on Friday on board the barque Abraam Lincolo, which was also captured and bonded for \$18,000. The Chickamauga is represented to be a screw steamer, carrying three guns and a crew of one hundred

The steamer Chesapeake, on her way to New York on Friday from Portland, was boarded by the United States outter Kewanna, and her captain informed that the Talla-

bassee was on the coast and had destroyed several vessels. A British schooner also arrived at New York on Friday evening with twenty-eight persons belonging to three vessels that had been captured and destroyed by the rebel steamer Olustee. One of the vessels destroyed was the schooner A. J. Bird, Capt. French, of and from Rockland, or Washington, (D. C.) with a cargolof lime, laths, and potatoes. The crew were ordered on board the steamer. steamer of eleven hundred tons burden, rigged with two smoke-stacks, two screws, and very fast, and ran out from Wilmington on the 30th ultimo.

The following letter has been received by the Government in reference to the new piratical steamer to be com manded by Capt. Semmes:

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

Liverpool October 18, 1864.

SIE: The English serew steamer Sea King, built at Glasgow in 1863, cleared for Bombay and sailed from London on the 8th instant, with a large quantity of coal, for the state of metal and a state of the state of metal and a state of the state of metal and a state of the state fifty tons of metal, and a crew of forty-seven men, in com-mand of Capt. Cobbett. Mr. Cisco, United States Con sular Agent at Dover, says he has reliable information that Capt. Semmes is to have this vessel. From what is known at this office about the Sea King, independent of the information of Mr. Cisco, I have not the least doubt she is the vessel the steamer Laurel is to meet, and that Capt. Semmes, with the officers, men, and guns taken out the Laurel, will be transferred to her. Their place of

neeting is not known to me.

The Sea King is a very fast, strongly-built and fine look. ing screw steamer, built of wood, with iron frame, and coppered, about one thousand tons burden, and two hundred and twenty-two feet long, one funnel, three bright masts, ship rigged with wire rigging, heavily sparred, machinery shaft the mannast. No doubt her name will be

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, THOMAS H. DUDLEY, Consul.

EXCITEMENT IN TRENTON.

Collision Between a Railroad Train and a Mo Clellan Procession-The Train Attacked

The Washington through mail train, which started from Jersey City at half past 7 o'clock on Friday night, enountered a McClellan procession on the track of the road Trenton, and a serious collision occurred. The speed of the train had slackened in order to run over the bridge at the ordinary slow rate, and when it became evident that

at the ordinary slow rate, and when it became evident that a collision must occur, an effort was made to stop the engine, but it struck the hind wheels of the wagon, carrying the end of the vehicle about twenty feet, and upsetting the boat and the ladies. Fortunately none of them were killed, and none, it is said, were seriously injured. The excitement at the time was fearful. Several hundred men gathered round the engine, which had stopped The engineer and firemen fled for their lives, and escaped in the confusion. The mob became infuriated and undertook to destry the locomotive. They threw stones at the engine, breaking the reflector and injuring it in other respects. They crowded themselves on it and on the care, and managed to run the train back to the depot. Afterwards another engine was procured, and its engineer, who was known to be friendly to the crowd, attempted to take the train on its way, but the mob threatened him, and he was not permitted to proceed. Fearing that the track would not permitted to proceed. Fearing that the track would be destroyed, or the bridge be burned, the attempt to go forward was abandoned. Subsequently, when the train had been delayed more than an hour, some of the leaders of the procession were conciliated. These men rode on the engine declaring to the crowd that it was "all right," and

TERRIBLE WAILROAD DISASTER We have already announced in our telegraphic column

the occurrence of a terrible railway accident near Lafayetta Indiana, on Monday last. The following particulars are from the Indianapolis Journal : "At 3 55 P. M the passenger express train north, on the afayette and Indianapolis railroad, and extra stock train

so the train was taken out of Trenton

Lafsyette and Indianapolis railroad, and extra stock train "The Baltimore and Ohio railroad has been able during south, which left here at three o'clock, collided one and a the whole was to meet all the demands of the public and half miles north of Culver's station, causing serious loss of life. The baggage car was driven clear through the first passenger car. Most of the killed were returned and turpassenger car. Most of the killed were returned and tur-loughed soldiers, who had served over three years, and were returning home. One of the killed had been con-fined thirteen months over his time in Libby Prison, and was just returning. One drafted man from Boone county was found with one leg broken and the other lying near with his boot, completely severed. One man, name un-known, had the whole top of his head taken clean off. Sixteen persons were almost instantly killed and a large number wounded, fourteen of whom have since died."

RULES FOR VOTING IN BALTIMORE. At a meeting of the Judges of Election, held at the Criminal Court room on Thursday evening last, it was 1st. Resolved, That the oath prescribed in the new Con

titution be put to every person offering to vote, and that they also be sworn to answer truly all such questions as may be propounded to them.

24. That the simple taking of the oath will not be consi

dered by the Judges conclusive evidence of loyalty.

3d That the Judges be instructed to put such other questions to voters, outside of the cath prescribed by the Constitution, as shall satisfy them that the party offering to

other is not a rebel or a rebel sympathizer.

4th. That the Judges be requested to commit any person offering to vote who, in their opinion, has aworn fairely.

By order of the Judges of Election: DAVID W. GRAY, Secretary.

AN UNPREJUDICED OPINION. Extract of a Letter from an aged and eminent Citizen of Ohio to the Editors.

HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO, OCTOBER 31, 1864.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer. GENTLEMEN: I have long shared with my household the benefit and pleasure which your journal has imparted. We belonged to the same political party, (old line Whig.) and although opposed to Mr. Lincoln's cleetion, we were disposed to support his Administration. I oon became satisfied that the abolition element would have a controlling influence upon the President and his Cabinet, and that ultra measures upon the subject of slavery would be adopted. My worst fears and predictions were fully realized, and after the President's proclamation of emancipation and confiscation, I came to the conclusion that Mr. Lincoln's re-election to the Presidency would prove a great misfortune for the nation, and possibly a disselution of the Union. I have not changed that opinion.

MARYLAND ELECTION FRAUDS.

We have already alluded to the factthat in the return of the votes of the Denton district, in Caroline county, in the State of Maryland, at the late election had on the new Constitution, but forty-seven votes appeared "against the Constitution," whereas eighty-nine voters, whose names appear upon the poll books, have publicly certified and avow their willingness to swear that they voted "against the Constitution." We have before us a late numb the Denton (Md.) Journal containing the certificate of these voters, authenticated by their proper signatures. Independently of these eighty-nine names, our contemporary enumerates the names of other citizens of the same district known to have voted against the Constitution. No steps, of course, have been taken for the punishment of these election frauds, because they were committed in the interest of the party in power.

FROM THE SOUTH.

The Richmond Whig of the 1st instant contains the foljowing letter of Mr. STEPHENS, the Vice President of the Southern Confederacy, to Mr. William King, who was the bearer of the message of Gen. Sherman, inviting Mr. Ste phens to a conference on the subject of peace :

CRAWFORDSVILLE, (GA.) OCT. 1, 1864. CRAWFORDSVILLE, (GA.) OCT. 1, 1864.

WM. KING, Sr., Esq.—Sir: I have considered the message you delivered me yesterday from Gen. Sherman with sil the seriousness and gravity due the importance of the wab ject. The message was a verbal invitation, by him through you, to me to visit him at Atlanta, to see if we could agree upon some plan of terminating this fratricidal war without the further effusion of blood.

the further effusion of blood.

The object is one which addresses itself with peculiar interest and great force to every well wisher of his country—to every friend of humanity—to every patriot—to every one attached to the principles of self-government established by our common ancestors. I need not assure established by our common ancestors. I need not assure you, therefore, that it is an object very dear to me. There is no sacrifice I would not make, short of principle and honor, to obtain it; and no effort would I spare, under the same limitations, with any reasonable or probable prospect of success. But, in the present instance, the entire absence of success.

may also say to him that if he is of opinion that there is any prospect of our agreeing upon any terms of adjustment to be submitted to the action of our respective Governments, even though he has no power to act in advance in the premises, and will make this known to me in some formal and authoritative manner, (being so desirous for peace himself as you represent him to have expressed himself,) I would most cheerfully and willingly, with the consent of our authorities, accede to his request thus manifested, and enter with all the expressees of my asture. manifested, and enter with all the carnestness of my nature upon the responsible and arduous task of restoring peace and harmony to the country, upon the principles of honor, right, and justice to all parties. This does not seem to me to be at all impossible, if truth and reason should be per-

mitted to have their full sway. Yours, most respectfully,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS THE SURPRISE OF SUNDAY NIGHT.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 1st instant contains the ollowing despatch from Gen. Lee, giving the results of the surprise of a part of our line on Sunday night last: HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

Gen. Mahone penetrated the enemy's picket line last night near Petersburg, and swept it for half a mile, capturing two hundred and thirty officers and men, without the loss of a man. The total number of prisoners captured en the 17th below Petersburg, according Gen. Hill's reort, was seven hundred.

We published on Thursday a letter from an officer is the squadron off Fortress Monroe giving the vote of the rews of some of the fleet. The following from the New York World furnishes some further particulars of political sentiment among the sailors :

"The great emergency of the Presidential election has caused to be dispatched a three-masted revenue steamer to take the Presidential votes of the seamen at steamer has gone a commissione; who understands his business. Going on board the United States steamer Keybusiness. Going on board the United States steamer Keystone State, for example, this commissioner requests the officers te call up the men, and the men having been called he asked them to give in their votes. The first sailor called asked for a McClellan ticket. 'I have no such tickets,' replied the commissioner, 'and I wan't only Lincoln votes." Five such votes only being obtained, he left the Keystone State in diagust. Six Lincoln votes were in like manner obtained by the revenue cutter in the same harbor, and the crew of the steamer Mattabeset baving been tald that all who did not wote for Lincoln might so been told that all who did not vote for Lincoln might go to quarters, the whole crew, with the exception of one man, so went."

SOLDIERS ON THER WAY HOME. The newspapers on the line of travel northward state

that the different railroads have swarmed for several days spatch says that on Thursday night last that city was crowded with soldiers and civilians seeking transportation North. The Northern Central railroad was unable, either at night or the next morning, to accommodate the crowds who sought passage by that route. A Washington despatch, dated on Friday, in speaking of the travel from this city. cays :

"The Baltimore and Ohio railroad has been able during the whole was to meet all the demands of the public and the Government until to day, when its utmost capacity was insufficient to accommodate the immense crowd of voters going home to participate in the election. The Departments are completely depopulated, the Government employes having been invited by printed circulars to accept furloughs and go home to vote.

THE FOREIGN RECRUITS OF BOSTON. The Boston Journal of the 4th instant, alluding to the mportation by Boston of foreign recruits to fill her quotas in the army of the United States, pronounces these recruits to be of a class "infinitely superior to the soum of than two days afterwards, not wishing to employ them the cities, thieves, blacklegs, and bounty jumpers who have here, I ordered them to be sent to the rear By a misapfilled the quotas of other places which are so lavish in their abuse of Boston," and adduces the following testimony in their behalf, as contained in a private letter from a staff officer in the first brigade first division of the Nineteenth Army Corps, to which the Thirtieth Massachusetts is at

"The Thirtieth Massachusetts received to day (Oddorf 23) another 'invoice of Dutchmen.' Massachusetts has shown an enterprise in importing these men worthy of a different appreciation. The men are splendid soldiers—they will be exposed to fire, and there is no foundation for real, trained, 'born and bred' soldiers. The carriage of real, trained, 'born and bred' soldiers. The carriage of pications referred to has considered himself justified by nications referred to have done and nications referred " The Thirtieth Massachusetts received to day (Octobe fore, and 'not in any volunteer army. They have medals and stories of charging the Redan and Malakoff that are very interesting to those who charged at Fisher's Hill and Ceuar Creek. They represent almost every European army. I called them 'Dutchmen' wrongly. All they want to make them happy, they say, is a tente d'abri—shelter tent. Like all old soldiers, they are securing and rubbing a good part of the time; and the batch received the other day, have applicant to the contract of the con day have employed themselves in gathering odd bits of wood and tying them into faggots. We should be pleased to receive many more like them

FROM GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

A note from the Army of the Potomac, dated on Thurs day, says: "The situation of affairs remains unchanged, and the men are making themselves comfortable by building log-houses. A severe storm set in yesterday morning and still confinuer, making travelling any thing but

The New York Express states that during Saturday last "a large number of troops, from what was recently Gen. Butler's department, arrived in the city of New York, including three hundred and seventy men of the United States infantry from City Point. Speculation is rife as to the business of these troops here, but the gene be treated as prisoners of war, or such treatment as they ral impression is that they have come home to vote."

FROM GEN. SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

There are no new movements in the Shenandoah Valle notice, every thing there being reported still quiet. The querrillas are said to be very active between Sheridan's headquarters and Martinsburg.

Four Philadelphia regiments, from Sheridan's army viz. the 82d, 114th, 119th, and 138th-forming a brigade of the Sixth Army Corps, are announced as having passed through the city of Baltimore on Friday night and Satur day morning, on their way home to vote. This brigade under the command of Col. Bassett, and the men, it is said are delighted at their good luck in being ordered homea surprise as sudden to them as it was agreeable.

Brigham Young has just finished a tour among the southern settlements of Utah. He visited this ty-seven of them, and spoke thirty-nine times.

THE TREATMENT OF NEGRO SOLDIERS.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding U. S. Armies.

GENERAL: In accordance with instructions from the honorable Secretary of the Confederate States, I have the honor to call your attention to the subject of two communications recently addressed by Maj Gen. B F Butler, an officer under your command, to the Hon. Robt. Ould, commissioner for the exchange of prisoners. For the better understanding of the matter, I enclose copies of the communications.

Munications.

You will perceive by one of them that the writer has placed a number of officers and men belonging to the Confederate service, prisoners of war captured by the United States forces, at labor in the canal at Dutch Gap, in retaliation, as is alleged, for a like number of Federal colored soldiers, prisoners of war in our hands, who are said to have been put to work on our fortifications. The evidence of this fact is found in the affidavits of two deserters from our service.

dence of this fact is found in the affidavits of two deserters from our service.

The other letter refers to a copy of a notice issued by a Confederate officer commanding a camp near Richmond, calling upon the owners to come forward and establish their claims to certain negroes in the custody of that officer. The writer of the letter proceeds to state that some of the negroes mentioned in the notice are believed to be soldiers of the United States army, captured in arms, and that, upon that belief, he has ordered to such manual labor as he deems most fitting to meet the exig-ncy an equivalent number of prisoners of war held by the United States, and announces that he will continue to order to labor captives in war to a number equal to that of all the United States soldiers whom he has reason to be leve are he d to service or labor by the Confederate forces, until he shall

Do notified that the alleged practice on the part of the Confederate authorities has ceased.

Before stating the facts with reference to the particular negroes alluded to, I beg to explain the policy pursued by the Confederate Government toward this class of persons when captured by our forces.

All negroes in the military or naval service of the United States taken by us, who are not identified as the property of sitissues or residents of some of the Confederate of sitissues.

perty of citizens or residents of any of the Confederate states, are regarded as prisoners of war, being held to be proper subjects of exchange, as I recently had the honor to inform you. No labor is exacted from such prisoners by the Confederate authorities.

Negroes who owe service or labor to citizens or residents of the Confederate States, and who, through compilies parsuasing of the confederate categories.

pulsion, persussion, or their own accord, leave their owners and are placed in the military or naval service of the United States occupy a different position.

The right to the service or labor of negro slaves in the

Confederate States is the same now as when the States were members of the Federal Union. The constitutional relations and obligations of the Confederate States to the owners of this species of properly are the same as those so frequently and so long recognised as those appertaining to the Government of the United States with reference to the

same class of persons by virtue of its organic law.

From the earliest period of the independence of the American States it has been held that one of the duties in-American States it has been neight that one of the duties incumbent upon the several common governments under
which they have from time to time been a-sociated was
the return to their lawful owners of slaves recaptured
from the public enemy. It has been uniformly held that
the capture or abduction of a slave does not impair the
right of the owner to such slave, but that the right attaches

to him immediately upon recapture.

Such was the practice of the American States during their struggle for independence. The Government under which they were then associated restored to the owners alaves abducted by the British forces and subsequently re-

captured by the American armies.

In the war of 1812 with Great Britain the course pur sued by the United States Government was the same, and it recognised the right of the owner to the slaves recaptured it recognised the right of the owner to the slaves recaptured from the enemy. Both the Continental and United states Governments, in fact, denied that the abduction of slaves was a belligerent right; and the latter Power insisted upon, and ultimately secured by treaty, pecuniary indemnity from the British Government for slaves taken by its forces during the war of 1812.

And it is supposed that a slave belonging to a citizen of a State in which slavery is recognised, and which is regarded as one of the United States, were to escape into the Confederate States, or be captured or abducted by

garded as one of the United States, were to escape into the Coofederate States, or be captured or abducted by their armies, the legal right of the owner to reclaim him would be as clear now as in 1812, the Constitution of the United States being unchanged in this particular, and that instrument having been interpreted in the judicial decisions, legislative and diplomatic acts and correspondence of the United States, as imposing upon that Government the duty of protecting, in all cases coming within the scope of its authority, the owners of slaves, as well as o any other kind of property recognised as such by the

reveral States.

The Confederate Government, bound by the same con-The Confederate Government, bound by the same constitutional obligations, considers, as that of the United did, that the capture or abduction of a negro slave does not preclude the lawful owner from reclaiming him when captured, and I am instructed to say that all such slaves, when properly identified as belonging to citizens of any of the Confederate States, or to persons enjoying the protection of their laws, will be restored, like other recapture. tured private property, to those entitled to them.

Having endeavored to explain the general policy of the

Confederate Government with regard to this subject, I beg leave to state the facts concerning the particular trans-

actions referred to in the enclosed communications.

The negroes recently captured by our forces were sent to Richmond with other Federal prisoners. After their arrival it was discovered that a number of them were slaves belonging to citizens or residents of some of the Confederate States; and of this class fifty-nine, as I learn, were sent, with other negroes, to work on the fortifications around Richmond until their owners should appear and prehension of the engineer officer in charge, they were transferred to our lines south of the James river, but when apprized of the error, I repeated the order for their re-moval. If any negroes were included among this number who were not identified as the slaves of citizens or residents of some of the Confederate States, they were so included without the knowledge or authority of the War De-partment, as already explained, and the mistake, when dis

overed, would have been corrected.

It only remains for me to say that negroes employed upon our fortifications are not allowed to be placed where they will be exposed to fire, and there is no foundation for the reports of two deserters, who do not allege that the

negroes in question were exposed to any danger in placing our prisoners under the fire of our batteries.

In view of the explanations of the practice of the Con-federate Government above given, and of the statement of

facts I have made, I have now, in accordance with my instructions, respectfully to inquire whether the course pursued toward our prisoners, as set forth in the accompanying letters, has your sanction, and whether it will b maintained ?
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE, General

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Commanding Army Northern Virginia.

GENERAL: Understanding from your letter of the 19th that the colored prisoners who were employed at work in the trenches near Fort Gilmer have been withdrawn. I

held by us.

I have nothing to do with the discussion of the slavery question; therefore decline answering the arguments ad-duced to show the right to return to former owners such

duced to show the right to return to former owners such begroes as are captured from our army.

In answer to the question at the conclusion of your letter, I have to state that all prisoners of war falling into my hands shall receive the kindest treatment possible, consistent with securing them, unless I have good authority for believing any number of our men are being treated to therwise. Then, painful as it may be to me, I shall inflict like treatment on an equal number of Confederate

Hoping that it may never become my duty to order retalistion upon any man held as a prisoner of war, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

The recent report in regard to the privateer Tallahassee being off the Delaware breakwater originated by a salute fired from Fort Delaware on the arrival of the United States gunboat Galena.